

Kultur- og likestillingsminister Abid Q. Raja

Vår saksbehandler Liz Helgesen	Kopi til	Vår dato 26.01.2021	Vår referanse	Deres referanse
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Unios innspill til årets kvinnekommisjon (UNCSW65)

Unio takker for muligheten til å delta på dagens møte. Som nevnt i møtet, ønsker Unio å bidra med skriftlig innspill. Med dette gjentas en utdypet versjon av hovedbudskapet Unio formidlet i møtet.

Om årets CSW og forventninger til norske myndigheter

De siste årene har internasjonalt likestillingsarbeid dreid seg om kampen mot tilbakeslag. Den politiske erklæringen fra CSW64 er et eksempel på dette. Sammen med den globale fagbevegelsen oppfatter Unio erklæringen som defensiv. Resultatet manglet dimensjonen som kunne bringe Beijing-erklæringens ambisjoner videre.

Det stilles derfor ekstra høye forventninger til at årets CSW, særlig sett i lys av hvordan pandemien rammer kvinner privat og deres arbeidsliv. Som flere av Unios medlemmer, er kvinner i yrker som gjør dem særlig eksponert for covid-19.

Kommisjonens digitale format skaper særlig utfordringer knyttet til involvering av sivilsamfunn. Unio er bekymret for praktisering av «bred involvering» i utforming av politiske erklæring og gjennomføring av årets kommisjon. Uten bred involvering fra blant annet arbeidslivets parter og sivilsamfunnsrepresentanter fra medlemslandene, er det en fare for at CSWs legitimitet svekkes. Unio håper at norske myndigheter vil føre en offensiv og inkluderende likestillingspolitikk i forhandlingene om en politisk erklæring og i debattene under CSW65.

Unio mener følgende tema bør prioriteres:

- **Arbeidsliv** – likestilling og deltakelse i samfunnet handler om økonomisk likestilling. Kvinners rett til produktive og anstendig arbeid (decent work) må fremmes.
- **Utdanning** – likestilling og deltakelse i samfunnet handler om kunnskap og utdanning.
- Bekjempe **vold og trakassering** i arbeidslivet.

Arbeidsliv den viktigste likestillingspolitiske arenaen

Kvinner mulighet til å *kunne forsørge seg selv* er grunnleggende for kvinners likestilling. Kvinners selvstendige økonomi er avgjørende for likestilling i familie og samfunn, nasjonalt og internasjonalt. I den globale konteksten er arbeidet for en overgang fra uformell til formell sektor svært viktig. Deltakelse i arbeidsliv handler igjen om deltakelse i samfunnslivet generelt og bør derfor ha hovedprioritet i regjeringens budskap på dette årets kvinnekommisjon.

Unio mener også at samarbeid med partene i arbeidslivet er viktig å trekke fram som en forutsetning for likestilling i samfunnet. I Norge kom flere av de likestillingsfremmende ordninger først som krav fra fagbevegelsen, eller som resultat av arbeidsgiver- og arbeidstakerorganisasjoners forhandlinger. Kvinners pensjon, fødselspermisjon og et styrket vern i likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven er eksempler på dette. Tillit og samarbeid mellom partene i arbeidslivet og myndigheter har vært avgjørende for oppbygging av nasjonale velferdsløsninger og -sikkerhetsnett. Disse erfaringene bør trekkes fram i en global kontekst. Globalt er det fortsatt store utfordringer knyttet til retten til å organisere seg i fagforeninger og retten til å forhandle samlet på en arbeidsplass. Det dreier seg om brudd på menneskerettigheter og svekker kvinners forhandlingsstyrke. Unio ønsker en politisk erklæring som har klar referanse til arbeidslivets parters (social partners) betydning for å oppnå likestilling.

Kvinner arbeidsinnsats verdsettes lavere enn menns. Dette gjelder i Norge, så vel som i resten av verden. Unio ønsker at denne likestillingspolitiske utfordringen følges opp i regjeringens budskap. Unio ønsker et sluttokument som har klar referanse til ILOs likelønnskonvensjon (C100) og bærekraftsmål 8.5.

Universell utdanning av høy kvalitet

Universell tilgjengelig utdanning av høy kvalitet bidrar til å øke kvinners yrkesdeltakelse og likestilling i samfunnet. Det er følgelig viktig å sikre jenter og kvinner tilgang til utdanning. Dette gjelder også videreutdanning og «ny sjanse» for jenter/kvinner som får barn tidlig. Videre bør betydning av sikker skolevei (trygg transport), sikre områder rundt skoler, sikre sanitæranlegg og rent vann vektlegges i regjeringens CSW-budskap. For språklige og kulturelle minoriteter er det vesentlig at retten til utdanning på eget språk gitt av lærere som har kunnskap om minoritetens kultur og språk følges opp.

Bekjempe vold og trakassering

I 2019 vedtok ILO en konvensjon mot vold og trakassering i arbeidslivet (C190). Konvensjonen slår fast at alle har rett til et arbeidsliv fritt for vold og trakassering. Retten gjelder uavhengig av sektor, form for kontrakt eller arbeidstilknytning. Konvensjonens brede nedslagsfelt (formell og uformell sektor), brede tolkning av vold og trakassering (bl.a. netthets, handlinger utført av tredjepart og seksuell trakassering) og søkelys på særlig utsatte grupper er et skritt i retning av et bedre arbeidsliv for kvinner nasjonalt og globalt. Det er dessuten viktig at konvensjonen anerkjenner at vold i nære relasjoner (domestic violence) også er et problem som angår arbeidslivet og som må bekjempes. Når vold og trakassering tematiseres i en global kontekst, er det svært viktig at regjeringen fremmer ratifisering og oppfølging av konvensjonen.

Regjeringen bør prioritere nasjonal ratifisering av ILO-konvensjon 190 og tydelig oppfordre FN-samfunnet til å gjøre det samme.

Unios deltakelse under CSW65

Med mer enn 375 000 medlemmer, hvorav tre fjerdedeler er kvinner, er Unio en av landets største kvinneorganisasjoner. Kjønnsligestilling er blant organisasjonens kjerneoppgaver, og deltakelse på CSW har høy prioritet. Som tidligere år, samarbeider Unio med den globale fagbevegelsen om innspill til den politiske erklæringen og selve kommisjonen. Unio er også i år en del av delegasjonen til International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

Unios forbund har et stort likestillingspolitisk engasjement. I år vil Unios likestillingsutvalg utgjøre referansegruppen til Liz Helgesen (liz.helgesen@unio.no), som er Unios representant i ITUCs delegasjon.

Unio har også vært med på å utforme den globale fagbevegelsens innspill til CSW65. Under følger kortversjonen av budskapet:

- It is Past Time for a Gender Equal New Normal!
- Shaping a World of Work Free from Violence and Harassment
- Shaping a Caring Economy Based on Recognition of the Human Right to Care
- A Gender Equal New Social Contract
- A Call to Action for a Gender Equal New Normal
- Shaping a Caring Economy Based on Recognition of the Human Right to Care

Se vedlegg for internasjonal fagbevegelses budskap i sin helhet.

Vennlig hilsen
Unio



Ragnhild Lied
Unio-leder

Vedlegg:
UNCSW65 Global Unions Statement

Kopi:
Utenriksminister Ine Eriksen Søreide
Utviklingsminister Dag-Inge Ulstein



UNCSW65 Global Unions Statement

- It is Past Time for a Gender Equal New Normal! -

The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the fault lines in our health and care systems and revealed a profound deepening of already existing gender and social inequalities. These inequalities are amplified by threats to peace, democracy, and human rights, as well economic, environmental and an emerging food crisis. Women, in all their diversity, are over-represented in informal work and irregular forms of employment, and are disproportionately and consistently affected by gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as intersecting systems of oppression based on class, ethnicity, race, migration status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is way past time for a gender equal new normal!

The Global Unions, representing more than 80 million women workers across all sectors all over the world, call on UN Member States to urgently prioritise and invest in realising a gender equal new social contract; to recognise the human right to care and build a caring economy; to ensure a world of work free from violence and harassment; and to secure equality and equity in decision-making and leadership. This will accelerate progress on achieving the promises enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Equality and equity in leadership and decision-making is a prerequisite to achieving gender and social justice and for building prosperous, sustainable, and equitable societies and economies. However, globally women make up only one quarter of those in decision-making positions.

Unequal power relations, perpetuated by discriminatory laws and practices, legacies of slavery and colonialism, gender stereotypes, gender inequality in labour force participation, gender-based occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical, inequitable opportunities in education and training, lack of access to quality public health and care services, as well as other essential public services such as water and sanitation, electricity, transport or judiciary, the disproportionate effect of poverty on women and lack of equal access to technology and digitalisation are root causes of inequality and inequity in decision-making and leadership, and in women's exclusion and exploitation in the world of work.

Trade unions are rising to these challenges, with millions of women in their ranks and 40 per cent women's representation in decision-making and leadership positions. Through organising and collective bargaining, trade unions secure women's rights and protections, including equal pay for work of equal value, as well as paid maternity and paternity leave. Unions can help end workplace discrimination, win access to social protection and inclusion policies for Indigenous and racialised workers, for LGBTI workers, workers living with disabilities, as well as for migrant workers, and other marginalised categories of workers, especially those positioned at the intersection of differentiating factors such as gender, class and race.

Shaping a World of Work Free from Violence and Harassment

Gender-based violence deeply impacts women's lives and ability to access, maintain and evolve in paid work and is one of the most tolerated violations of workers' human rights. One third of women have experienced sexual or physical violence at home, in their communities or in the workplace. While these figures are already horrific, the emergency responses to the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis in all sectors or occupations on the frontlines where women are perennially more exposed to gender-based violence and harassment, including hospitality, health and social services, transport, education, media, domestic and informal work. Workers have experienced new forms of aggression related to the pandemic, such as threats of being coughed at, heightening exposure to Covid-19 infection.

The pandemic has also resulted in a surge in domestic violence, with disproportionate job losses and pay cuts in sectors including the informal sector, where women are over-represented with little or no economic independence, social and support networks, making them even more vulnerable. Home has now become the workplace for millions of workers. Until 2019, no international instrument addressed the elimination of gender-based violence in the world of work. This has changed after nearly a decade of trade union campaigning and lobbying: in June 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the landmark Violence and Harassment Convention No. 190 (C190) and Recommendation 206 (R206).

C190 and R206 provide vital guidance for shaping workplace cultures based on equality, dignity and respect, and health and safety. These instruments have a strong focus on gender-based violence and recognise that people whose experience of violence and harassment is exacerbated by discrimination and inequality must have the strongest and most robust protection. C190 and R206 require governments to adopt laws, regulations and policies ensuring the right to equality and non-discrimination in employment and occupation as part of the measures to prevent and eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work. The instruments apply to every sector, to the formal and informal economy and to rural and urban areas. They expand the concept of the world of work beyond the immediate physical workplace (including commuting to and from work, use of sanitary facilities and cyber-bullying), address third-party violence and require employers to address the impact of domestic violence in the world of work.

Clearly, there is an urgent need for governments to ratify and implement C190 and R206. When this is done, national laws and policies must be aligned with the provisions of the Convention. Global unions, supported by allies from feminist and human rights movements have increased lobbying and advocacy efforts to challenge all UN Member States to join Uruguay and Fiji, which are the first two countries to ratify C190.

Shaping a Caring Economy Based on Recognition of the Human Right to Care

The Covid-19 pandemic laid bare the devastating effects of decades of austerity and under investments in health and care systems. Structural inequalities across gender, class and, in many cases, racialised and ethnic lines prevented the most marginalised groups from accessing affordable and quality public care and health services. While the health and care sector workforce, mostly women, are trapped in underpaid, informal, and precarious jobs and often denied their fundamental labour and trade union rights. Millions are risking their lives due to a lack of essential protective equipment.

Reinforcing publicness and public systems with adequate investment in equitable quality public care and health services is vital and urgent for every country to ensure dignity and health for those in need of care, and to create the conditions necessary to enable women's full and effective participation in decision-making in public life. To avoid a global care crisis, resources need to be put into the creation of millions of decent jobs in the public health and care sector, and to transform informal, precarious jobs in all sectors into decent jobs with living wages, income protection and access to social protection. Policies also need to be implemented to realize equitable sharing of unpaid care responsibilities between women, men, and non-binary people, both within households and between households and the State. This will build resilient economies and societies, increase women's workforce participation, eradicate the gender pay gap, enable equitable access to quality public care and health services, and enhance the wellbeing of all in our societies. Shaping a caring economy is core to the agenda of the Global Unions.

A Gender Equal New Social Contract

Global Unions are fundamental to bargaining for decent living and working standards for all. A new social contract must be the foundation for recovery plans in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This will build resilience by embedding decent work, quality and gender-responsive public services, universal social protection, equality and equity and climate justice as intrinsic values in our laws and policies, economies and societies as a whole. This will effectively address critical constraints in achieving gender and social justice.

A Call to Action for a Gender Equal New Normal

Global Unions call on Governments to urgently live up to promises made in the Beijing Platform for Action and to fulfil commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the realisation of equality and equity in leadership and decision-making by addressing the following gender equal new normal pillars:

- 1) Universal ratification of C190 and its effective implementation, to shape a world of work free from gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work;

- 2) A new gender-equal social contract which builds resilient societies and economies through:
 - ✓ Living minimum wages and equal pay for work of equal value across all sectors;
 - ✓ Gender-responsive and universal social protection, including recognising the value of unpaid care work within contributory social security schemes;
 - ✓ Upholding fundamental ILO labour rights, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
 - ✓ Ratification and effective implementation of ILO Conventions that address and redress structural barriers for women's labour force participation, including C87, C98, C100, C111, C156, C183, C189 and C190;
 - ✓ Occupational health and safety guarantees;
 - ✓ Regulating business operations through human rights due diligence;
 - ✓ Measures to improve women's access to quality vocational education and training and to sectors with gender-based occupational segregation, including by requiring adequate and equitable sanitation provision in all workplaces and ensuring the provision of safe and gender-responsive commuting via accessible public transport;
 - ✓ Just transition measures for women workers affected by climate change, digitalization, and automation, adopted through social dialogue, collective bargaining, and job evaluations;
 - ✓ The systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data and gender impact assessments to shape policies, budgets and strategies which are gender-responsive.

- 3) A caring economy based on the recognition of the human right to care front and centre of macro-economic policy making by securing fiscal space and increased public resources and finance in:
 - ✓ Equitable and affordable access to gender-responsive quality public care and health services, including effective physical access to these services via well-funded gender-responsive transport services, with women included in the leadership and design of these lifeline services, and extending those services to rural and remote areas;
 - ✓ The creation of millions of decent jobs in the health, education and care sectors, with living wages and decent working conditions, including the transition of

- precarious, informal care and health jobs into decent jobs; fair recruitment of migrant health and care workers, irrespective of legal status; and
- ✓ Enacting laws and implementing policies to facilitate the reconciliation of work and private life, including designing cities and public transport systems, routes and services in ways that efficiently cater to the mobility needs of women workers in all their diversity and in their role as carers; to realise the fair redistribution of unpaid care responsibilities and to recognise its value within contributory social security schemes.

Supported by:

ITUC - International Trade Union Confederation, **BWI** - Building and Woodworker's International, **EI** - Education International, **IFJ** - International Federation of Journalist, **ITF** - International Transport Workers' Federation, **IUF** - International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco & Allied Workers' Associations, **PSI** - Public Services International, **UNI Global Union** - Union Network International, **IDWF** - International Domestic Workers Federation

